

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Peter J Prommer on 15 October 2008.

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: Reference character '21' in Figure 1 has been deleted. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
4. A format for the optical analysis of a sample where the format comprises pins and holes joined together with adhesive, specifically on the pin and hole interfaces, not on any inner surface of the format component, is not found in the prior art. Furthermore, a first format that has slots disposed on the first and second side of the surfaces made for the ease of handling and transportation of the optical format as well as in the second format component that has slots disposed on the third and fourth side of the surface is

not found in the prior art. There are also formats disclosed that are formed as part of chain that are linked together by linking members or by ribbons for having the formats as part of a chain.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTINE T. MUI whose telephone number is (571)270-3243. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Walter Griffin can be reached on (571) 272-1447. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CTM

/Walter D. Griffin/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1797